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Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

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Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the working group on legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management, which will be made available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/8th-Session/). The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress of the working group in its efforts to address legal and policy issues in geospatial information management, including those related to authoritative data.

Summary of the report

At its seventh session, held in New York from 2 to 4 August 2017, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 7/106, in which it endorsed the establishment of the working group on legal and policy frameworks for geospatial information management, its terms of reference and its initial composition. The Committee requested the working group to develop mechanisms for Member States to build capacity to address legal and policy matters and noted the comments made during the session about analysing complex issues regarding geospatial information, including definitions of open data, personal data, data privacy, data protection, data licensing and the security and misuse of data.

In its report, the working group provides information on its progress in establishing its modalities and developing a workplan for the biennium 2018–2019 to

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systematically address the complex legal and policy issues in geospatial information management. The working group also provides information on its activities in building capacity and awareness, including introducing and communicating practical approaches to considering legal and policy issues that have an impact on the availability, accessibility and application of geospatial information. A use case is presented to methodologically consider and begin to understand some of the complex legal and policy issues in geospatial information management, including those related to authoritative data.